

Economy

The largest industries in Burke County in 1960 were: manufacturing with 10,974 employees (or 54.3 per cent of the total work force); professional services, with 2,749 employees (or 13.6 per cent of the total work force); and commerce, with 2,560 employees (or 12.6 per cent of the total work force). The two largest manufacturing industries were furniture, lumber and wood products with 3,669 employees, and textile and apparel products with 5,844 employees.

From 1950 to 1960 manufacturing gained 2,680 workers; professional services gained 900 employees; and commerce gained 331 employees. The total number of employees (county-wide) increased by 4,070 (a 25.2 per cent gain) during the decade. The most significant decline occurred in agriculture and forestry, which had a loss of 887 persons (a 60.6 per cent decline) from 1,464 in 1950 to 577 in 1960.

In 1960 about 60 per cent of the males and some 53 per cent of the females in the Silver Creek Township were classified as skilled laborers. The unskilled labor force accounted for about 20 per cent of the males and about 19 per cent of the females. The percentage of unskilled workers is relatively high but somewhat understandable in the light of such factors as educational training and types of industries established in the area. With the establishment of an industrial park near Glen Alpine in recent years the number of skilled workers will no doubt increase.

Approximately 41 per cent of the families living in Silver Creek Township in 1960 had incomes of less than \$3,000 per year. This is a much higher percentage than that of the county which had only 29 per cent of the families with less than \$3,000 income per year. In the middle income bracket (\$3,000-\$7,999), Silver Creek Township had 55.2 per cent, while Burke County had 59.8 per cent. While in the township this is a majority of the families, it can be noted that when the family income groups below \$5,000